

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 05368 151304Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /077 W

----- 002244

R 151211Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9112

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NY

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 5368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: AUGUST 14-15 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT RETURN OF PLO  
DELEGATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SARG AMIDST CONTINUED  
FIGHTING IN LEBANON

1. SARG LEADERSHIP MET WITH NUMBER OF VISITORS OVER WEEKEND.  
MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS RETURN AUGUST 14 OF PLO DELEGATION  
COMPOSED OF EXCOMM MEMBERS MAHMUD ABBAS, MUHAMMAD GHUMAYM,  
SALIH RAF'AT AND TALAL NAJI, WHICH ACCORDING TO PRESS  
REPRESENTED FATAH, PDFLP AND PFLP-GC. SYRIAN TEAM INCLUDED  
MAJ. GEN. NAJI JAMIL AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS ABD AL-KARIM ADI (FONMIN KHADDAM ATTENDING COLOMBO  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 05368 151304Z

CONFERENCE). THEY MET AT 2000 PREVIOUS EVENING TO DISCUSS

DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON AND METHOD OF IMPLEMENTING SYRO-PALESTINIAN ACCORD. ALSO EVENING AUGUST 14 ASAD MET WITH LIBYAN DEPFONMIN WHO DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM QADDAFI, AND LATER RECEIVED ALMEDIATOR DR. KHOULI TO REVIEW LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS. DR. KHOULI MET SEPARATELY WITH NEW PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI.

2. MEDIA REPORTED HEAVY FIGHTING IN LEBANON PAST TWO DAYS AND POLITICAL CONTACTS TO HALT FIGHTING. PRESS HEADLINED: "VIOLENT FIGHTING EXTENDS FROM BEIRUT TO MOUNTAINS, AND POLITICAL CONTACTS CONTINUE IN ATTEMPT TO STOP IT." EAST AND WEST BEIRUT WITNESSED ARTILLERY SHELLING AND ROCKET ATTACKS; PRESS REPORTS CLAIMED FIERCEST BATTLES TOOK PLACE IN NORTH METN REGION. NUMBER OF KIDNAPPING INCIDENTS REPORTEDLY OCCURRED IN WEST BEIRUT. CASUALTY FIGURES AUGUST 14 ESTIMATED AT 100 KILLED AND 140 WOUNDED. WHILE POLITICAL CONTACTS TO END CRISIS STILL UNDERWAY, PRES-ELECT SARKIS REPORTED IN PRESS AS SUGGESTING FOUR BILLION DOLLARS NEEDED FROM FOREIGN FINANCIAL SOURCES FOR RECONSTRUCTING LEBANON.

3. ASF COMMAND DENIED ALLEGATIONS BY Wafa THAT ASF FORCES EXERTED NO EFFORTS TO PREVENT ILL TREATMENT OF TELL ZAATAR FAMILIES LEAVING EAST BEIRUT.

4. MEDIA REPORTED THAT LEBANESE NASSERITE LEADER KAMAL SHATILA ADDRESSED MESSAGE TO COLOMBO NAC DEFENDING SYRIAN ACTIONS IN LEBANON FROM "MISLEADING CAMPAIGN UNDERTAKEN BY FOREIGN FORCES AND THEIR AGENTS DISPLEASED WITH SYRIAN EFFORTS TO END FIGHTING IN LEBANON AND SAFEGUARD LEBANESE UNITY." HE REITERATED THAT LEBANON SUBJECT TO IMPERIALIST ZIONIST PLOT.

5. BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND MEMBER FADIL AL-ANSARI IN FRONT-PAGE AL-BAATH EDITORIAL AUGUST 15 DENOUNCED EGYPTIAN AND IRAQI EFFORTS TO INFLAME LEBANESE CRISIS. HE ACCUSED REJECTIONISTS WITHIN PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT OF COOPERATING WITH "ULTRA RIGHT-WINGERS IN FATAH" AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS WHO HAVE NOT REJECTED SINAI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DAMASC 05368 151304Z

AGREEMENT AND WHO HAVE NOT HIDDEN THEIR AMBITIONS TO NEGOTIATE WITH ENEMY AND CONCEDE POINTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SMALL AMOUNT OF TERRITORY OVER WHICH THEY CAN RULE. HE CLAIMED THAT US EXERTING SPECIAL EFFORTS TO WIN OVER PALESTINIAN RIGHT-WINGERS, CITING US POLICY FORMULAS KNOWN AS "AMERICAN-PALESTINIAN DIALOGUE," "AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF PALESTINIANS," AND FORMULA OF "EXCHANGING MESSAGES AND

EMISSARIES." HE ASSERTED THAT THIS AMERICAN-PALESTINIAN FLIRTATION EXPLAINED CAMPAIGNS BY PALESTINIAN RIGHTISTS AGAINST SYRIA. ANSARI CONCLUDED WITH ATTACK ON IRAQI SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS.

6. COMMENT: RETURN OF PALESTINIAN DELEGATION MAY BE ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING DAMASCUS ACCORD IN VIEW OF SARG CABINET CHANGE. WE ARE AT LOSS TO UNDERSTAND ANSARI'S DENUNCIATION OF PALESTINIAN "RIGHTISTS" FOR PLANNING RAPPROCHEMENT WITH US. BY IMPLICATION, WITH US DEALING WITH "RIGHTISTS" AND IRAQIS SUPPORTING "REJECTIONISTS," SYRIA REMAINS AS SUPPORTER OF PALESTINIAN "MODERATES."  
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMISTICE, CIVIL DISORDERS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976DAMASC05368  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760313-0833  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760852/aaaabtdt.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUGUST 14-15 SYRIAN MEDIA REPORT RETURN OF PLO DELEGATION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SARG AMIDST CONTINUED FIGHTING IN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, LE, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006